

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7411
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USDOCO SOUTH
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7423

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN AIR SPACE
TALKS IN ISTANBUL JULY 31-AUGUST 3

REF: ATHENS 6980

1. THE GOG HAS NOW FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE GREEK AND TURKISH EXPERTS ON THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE ISSUE WILL RESUME THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN ATHENS BEGINNING AUGUST 28.
2. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS RECENTLY GAVE US SOME ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND WITH RESPECT TO GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES OVER THE LIMNOS TERMINAL MOVEMENT AREA (TMA) WHICH SUPPLEMENTS WHAT MACRIS TOLD US ON AUGUST 9 (PARA 4 OF REFTEL). TZOUNIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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INVOLVED. THE TURKS, HE SAID, ARE OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE SIZE OF THE LIMNOS TMA WHICH WOULD PREVENT USE OF THIS AIRPORT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH THE GOG CANNOT ACCEPT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, ASIDE FROM ANYTHING ELSE.

3. IN ANY CASE, TZOUNIS RECALLED AGAIN (ATHENS 5712 NOTAL), THE

1936 MONTREUX TREATY HAD SUPERSEDED THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1923 LAUSANNE TREATY REGARDING DEMILITARIZATION OF THE ISLAND OF LIMNOS (SEE ALSO ANKARA 5080). HE REITERATED THAT DURING THE RATIFICATION PROCESS OF THE MONTREUX TREATY IN THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THEN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRAS CATEGORICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ON BEHALF OF THE GOT THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAUSANNE TREATY DEALING WITH THE DEMILITARIZATION OF LIMNOS AND SAMOTHRACE WERE ABROGATED BY THE TREATY OF MONTREUX. THUS THE GOT COULD NOT CITE THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE, TZOUNIS ADDED, IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO RESTRICT THE USE OF THE LIMNOS TMA BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT.
MCCLOSKEY

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